

Children, Youth, and Family Services

FUNCTION

The mission of Children, Youth and Family Services is to promote opportunities for children to grow up safe, healthy, ready for school and for families and individuals to be self-sufficient. This mission is realized through the provision of protective, prevention, intervention, and treatment services for children and their families and through education, support and financial assistance for parents, caretakers and individuals. These services work to build on the strengths of both the individual and the community in addressing issues of child development, abuse, neglect, health and economic security.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Contact Kate Garvey of the HHS - Children, Youth, and Family Services at 240.777.1101 or Bryan Hunt of the Office of Management and Budget at 240.777.2770 for more information regarding this service area's operating budget.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Children and Youth Community Services

This program shifted to Child and Adolescent Services in FY06.

FY06 Recommended Changes

	Expenditures	WYs
FY05 Approved	2,204,640	0.7
FY06 CE Recommended	0	0.0

Child Welfare Services

This program provides preventive, rehabilitative, supportive, protective, and remedial services for children who are maltreated and for their families, foster parents, and adoptive parents. Child foster care, adoption, protective services, and in-home aide services are also provided through this program. Family Preservation Services provide social services to families with children who are at risk of removal from home due to neglect or abuse.

FY06 Recommended Changes

- ☐ Launch new post-adoption therapeutic services to promote the mental health of adopted children and their families through the provision of specialized post-adoption counseling services.
- ☐ Implement a Service Integration Pilot to: identify the needs of customers; expedite the enrollment into services; assure follow-up services; and, in this program, provide intensified case management support to those customers who are most in need.
- ☐ Add a new Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant from the State Department of Community Services Administration to fund two contractual positions at the Montgomery County Child Assessment Center to pay for services to

Program Summary

	Expenditures	WYs
Children and Youth Community Services	0	0.0
Child Welfare Services	16,983,390	195.3
Conservation Corps	756,910	26.4
Linkages to Learning	3,798,690	7.0
Community Partnership	2,084,520	10.0
Juvenile Justice Services	1,735,180	17.1
Quality Enhancement of Early Childhood Services	3,369,400	17.8
Parent Support Services	594,220	0.0
Services to Children with Special Needs	1,945,320	7.8
Child Care Subsidies	14,281,300	27.6
Income Supports	11,841,100	140.0
Child and Adolescent Services	2,676,980	3.3
Service Area Administration	396,090	4.0
Totals	60,463,100	456.3

child victims of abuse. DHHS will partner with the Primary Care Coalition (PCC) to provide the new services of a mental health professional and a child victim advocate.

	Expenditures	WYs
FY05 Approved	15,801,560	193.6
FY06 CE Recommended	16,983,390	195.3

Conservation Corps

This program seeks to increase the employability of out-of-school, at-risk 17 to 24 year-old youth by providing opportunities for personal growth, education, and training. Corps members earn their high school equivalency diploma and perform conservation, landscape, and carpentry projects. Program participants also build trails, homeless shelters, handicap access ramps, and run a recycling program.

FY06 Recommended Changes

	Expenditures	WYs
FY05 Approved	725,790	27.8
FY06 CE Recommended	756,910	26.4

Linkages to Learning

This program is a collaborative effort of Health and Human Services, Montgomery County Public Schools, and various private agencies which provides services to students and families to improve performance in the school, home, and community. Children and their families can obtain integrated social services, health, and mental health care, in addition to educational support at MCPS sites.

FY06 Recommended Changes

- ❑ *Expand Linkages to Learning, a school-based health, mental health, and social services program at 22 sites to: provide contract staffing for Highland and Summit Hall Elementary Schools (ES); launch service at two additional sites (Weller Road and Wheaton Woods ES); fund site coordination, case management, and mental health services at Gaithersburg ES, our newest school based health center.*

	Expenditures	WYs
FY05 Approved	3,100,210	6.6
FY06 CE Recommended	3,798,690	7.0

Community Partnership

This program provides services to children and their families locally and strives to avoid out-of-home placement. It also includes family preservation services preventing the unnecessary out-of-home placement of children and preserving the family unit.

FY06 Recommended Changes

- ❑ *Transfer the administration of, and funding for, the Community Partnership Grant to the Montgomery County Collaboration Council. The Collaboration Council now receives funding for this initiative directly from the Governor's Office of Children, Youth and Families.*

	Expenditures	WYs
FY05 Approved	4,876,090	11.0
FY06 CE Recommended	2,084,520	10.0

Juvenile Justice Services

The function of Juvenile Justice Services is to support the County's comprehensive Juvenile Justice Plan by integrating screening, assessment, case management and treatment. These programs serve youth involved in, or at risk for involvement in, the juvenile justice system and youth in need of services for substance abuse. HHS works in partnership with the Police Department Family Crimes Division, the Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice, the Juvenile Division of the District Court, and other relevant agencies.

FY06 Recommended Changes

- ❑ *Replace State Department of Juvenile Justice grant funds to provide Level I Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment for 70 adolescents to restore treatment capacity to FY04 levels.*
- ❑ *Add the Youth Strategies Case Management grant to help support outpatient substance abuse treatment.*

	Expenditures	WYs
FY05 Approved	1,191,580	16.8
FY06 CE Recommended	1,735,180	17.1

Quality Enhancement of Early Childhood Services

This program focuses on increasing the quality of early care and education programs available to young children throughout Montgomery County through technical assistance, consultation, and training for providers. This program also includes the development of strategies to increase the supply of quality early care and education programs and services.

FY06 Recommended Changes

- ❑ *Increase the Head Start Grant for a new full-time Program Specialist II position that will assist in the research and planning needed for the many initiatives of the Montgomery County Head Start program, including the development and evaluation of the grant, contract development and monitoring and public outreach.*
- ❑ *Add the Judith Hoyer Enhancement Grant V to provide support (training, technical assistance, mentoring, and program materials) for child care providers voluntarily seeking program accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association for Family Child Care or the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).*

	Expenditures	WYs
FY05 Approved	3,128,690	16.3
FY06 CE Recommended	3,369,400	17.8

Parent Support Services

These services support parents as their children's first and most important teacher. They include voluntary screening of all newborns, an array of supports and services including home visits, and community-based resource services.

FY06 Recommended Changes

	Expenditures	WYs
FY05 Approved	750,450	0.0
FY06 CE Recommended	594,220	0.0

Services to Children with Special Needs

These efforts provide an array of services to young children with developmental delays, disorders, and/or disabilities through partnerships among public and private sector providers. Services are centered around individual family needs, and are provided in natural environments.

FY06 Recommended Changes

- ☐ *Increase the Infants and Toddlers Consolidated Local Implementation Grant (CLIG) that supports the provision of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) provide comprehensive planning and early intervention services for eligible infants and toddlers birth through two years.*

	Expenditures	WYs
FY05 Approved	1,890,530	8.3
FY06 CE Recommended	1,945,320	7.8

Child Care Subsidies

This program provides child care subsidies for low-income families. The Child Care subsidy program is the single point of entry for both the State and Federally-funded Purchase of Care program and the County's Working Parents Assistance program.

FY06 Recommended Changes

- ☐ *Increase funding for the Working Parents Assistance child care subsidies program to serve an additional 36 children and their families.*

	Expenditures	WYs
FY05 Approved	13,466,990	28.6
FY06 CE Recommended	14,281,300	27.6

Income Supports

This program determines eligibility for: Temporary Cash Assistance (formerly Aid to Families with Dependent Children); Temporary Emergency Disability Assistance Program (TEDAP); Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA); Food Stamps (FS); and Community Medical Assistance (MA).

FY06 Recommended Changes

- ☐ *Implement a Service Integration Pilot to: identify the needs of customers; expedite the enrollment into services; assure follow-up services; and, in the Child Welfare Services program, provide intensified case management support to those customers who are most in need.*

	Expenditures	WYs
FY05 Approved	11,141,790	132.0
FY06 CE Recommended	11,841,100	140.0

Child and Adolescent Services

Services provided through this program include respite care, community empowerment efforts, single-parent family services, youth services, and family outreach efforts. The program also provides for the coordination, planning, and implementation of a number of key interagency initiatives among public and private agencies in the community to meet the needs of children, youth, and their families.

FY06 Recommended Changes

- ☐ *Provide operating expenses and staffing for the proposed Crossroads Youth and Community Opportunity Center (Therapist, Community Services Aide, Program Manager and two contractual street outreach/administrative positions)*

	Expenditures	WYs
FY05 Approved	695,930	3.4
FY06 CE Recommended	2,676,980	3.3

Service Area Administration

This program provides leadership and direction for the administration of Children, Youth, and Family Services.

FY06 Recommended Changes

	Expenditures	WYs
FY05 Approved	278,410	3.0
FY06 CE Recommended	396,090	4.0

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Children, Youth, and Family Services

PROGRAM: Child Care Subsidies	PROGRAM ELEMENT: Purchase of Child Care and Working Parents Assistance				
PROGRAM ELEMENT MISSION: To move lower income families to greater self-sufficiency by subsidizing child care and to assist Temporary Cash Assistance families					
COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED: • Children and vulnerable adults who are safe • Individuals and families achieving their maximum level of self-sufficiency					
PROGRAM MEASURES	FY02 ACTUAL	FY03 ACTUAL	FY04 ACTUAL	FY05 BUDGET	FY06 CE REC
Outcomes/Results:					
Percentage of families in Purchase of Child Care with increased overall income (increase in wages earned plus child support collected)	^a NA	41	73	45	60
Percentage of families in Working Parents Assistance with increased overall income (increase in wages earned plus child support collected)	60	58	59	60	60
Percentage of Working Parents Assistance families receiving child support	82	80	79	^b 70	^b 70
Percentage of Purchase of Child Care families receiving child support	34	43	44	40	40
Service Quality:					
Percentage of families rating service as "good" or better	90	89	89	90	90
Efficiency:					
Average Purchase of Child Care subsidy per child per month (\$)	380	414	406	410	410
Average Working Parents Assistance subsidy per child per month (\$)	310	290	357	310	400
Average administrative and case management cost per child per month (\$)	61	51	56	66	65
Workload/Outputs:					
Number of families screened	3,635	2,958	^c 2,122	2,200	2,200
Number of families authorized to receive a subsidy	2,815	2,672	2,053	2,800	2,778
Average number of children authorized to receive a subsidy (per month)	2,566	2,900	2,481	2,570	2,610
Inputs:					
Expenditures - Purchase of Child Care (\$000)	10,425	11,849	10,021	10,840	11,549
Expenditures - Working Parents Assistance (\$000)	3,063	2,594	3,099	2,627	^e 2,703
Workyears	31.4	31.4	31.4	^d 28.6	^f 28.0
Notes:					
^a Data collection for Purchase of Child Care programs began in FY03.					
^b Working Parents Assistance Executive Regulations were revised in February, 2004. Requirements for the pursuit of child support are no longer as stringent as those in the original program policy. Therefore, the percentage of Working Parents Assistance families receiving child support is projected to decrease in FY05.					
^c As of October 2003, a waiting list was in effect for both programs; therefore, the number of families fully screened has dropped. This is expected to continue into FY05 and FY06.					
^d Reflects the elimination of two vacant positions to meet the FY05 budget requirements and is adjusted to include lapse.					
^e The County Executive has recommended adding \$150,000 in Working Parents Assistance subsidy funds in order to serve 22 more families and 32 more children.					
^f Includes 0.4 workyears of a Manager III who administratively oversees the two subsidy programs. The remainder of this position and associated personnel costs are included in the Employment Services program of Income Supports.					
EXPLANATION:					
Research indicates that child care subsidies are one of the most effective strategies for assisting parents in obtaining and retaining employment. It is important to make sure that families are completely self-sufficient before their incomes exceed program eligibility. Inadequate or undependable child care may make it impossible for parents to succeed in a job that will support their family. The success of Welfare Reform depends on the ability of Temporary Cash Assistance recipients to obtain affordable child care in order to search for, obtain, and maintain employment. The ultimate goal of providing child care subsidies to families is to keep parents employed so that, over time, their income will increase to the point where they no longer require subsidies to afford child care expenses. Some families, however, may continue to need some level of subsidy over an extended period due to conditions beyond their control (such as the high cost of child care in Montgomery County relative to wages, a low educational level, or a disability that hampers advancement).					
Due to State budget constraints, the Purchase of Child Care program began a waiting list effective January 15, 2003. Only new families who are receiving Temporary Cash Assistance and are seeking employment or training are exempt from the waiting list. Initially, Purchase of Childcare families on the waiting list who were eligible for Working Parents Assistance received WPA benefits. Effective October 27, 2003, it was also necessary to begin a waiting list for Working Parents Assistance in order to remain within the FY04 appropriation.					
PROGRAM PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF OUTCOMES: Linkages to Learning, Income Supports, Emergency Services and Child Welfare Services; Maryland Office of Child Support Enforcement; Maryland Child Care Administration; Montgomery County Public Schools; licensed child care providers; Maryland Department of Human Resources; Maryland Committee for Children, Inc.; Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Referral Center; Commission on Child Care.					
MAJOR RELATED PLANS AND GUIDELINES: Program guidelines developed by Federal law, State regulations, and local policies; COMAR Title 07 Department of Human Services, Subtitle 04 Child Care Administration, Chapter 06 Purchase of Child Care; County Executive Working Parents Assistance Regulation.					

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Children, Youth, and Family Services

PROGRAM:

Child Welfare Services

PROGRAM ELEMENT:

Adoptions

PROGRAM MISSION:

To achieve long-term stability for abused and/or neglected children who cannot be reunified with their parents

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED:

- Children and vulnerable adults who are safe

PROGRAM MEASURES

	FY02 ACTUAL	FY03 ACTUAL	FY04 ACTUAL	FY05 BUDGET	FY06 CE REC
Outcomes/Results:					
Percentage of children in foster/kinship care who are adopted or placed for adoption within 24 months of entry	33.8	33.9	29.9	32	32
Service Quality:					
Average number of cases per adoption worker (State standard = 18)	11	17	15	16	16
Efficiency:					
Average cost per finalized adoption (\$) ^a	18,641	37,087	34,351	38,441	40,911
Workload/Outputs:					
Number of guardianships granted to the Department from cases with a plan for Termination of Parental Rights ^b	25	54	25	50	50
Number of finalized adoptions	39	34	37	34	34
Inputs:					
Expenditures (\$000) ^a	727	1,261	1,271	1,307	1,391
Workyears ^a	11.5	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.6

Notes:

^aBeginning in FY02, expenditures and workyears also include administration, supervision, community service aides, and clerical support. Effective FY03, Child Welfare Services realigned all of its program measures to ensure consistency with the outcome data already being collected by the State of Maryland's Department of Human Resources. As a result, it was determined that 26% of the unit's workyears and expenditures should be included in the Adoptions program element. This explains the increase in workyears, expenditures, and cost per finalized adoption. There have been no other budgetary or personnel changes. In FY06 work years were adjusted to account for lapse.

^bTermination of Parental Rights must be considered if a child cannot be reunited with his or her family within fifteen months. When there is sufficient cause, the Court can terminate parental rights.

EXPLANATION:

All children who enter foster care have a "permanency plan" that is intended to achieve long term stability for the child, either through reunification with the family or adoption. If a child cannot be reunified with his or her family within fifteen months, termination of parental rights to free the child for adoption must be considered. When there is sufficient cause, the Court terminates parental rights and grants legal guardianship of the child to the Department. The Department then prepares the child and the adoptive family for the adoption. The Court subsequently grants the adoptive family's petition to legally adopt the child. This ends the Department's clinical, but not necessarily financial, involvement with the family.

For those children who cannot be reunited with their families, success is measured by finalizing adoptions as quickly as possible - within 24 months of their first entry into the system. This ensures that children do not languish in temporary placements but move on to permanent homes with long-term caregivers as soon as possible. The State's goal for the percentage of children who are adopted or placed for adoption within 24 months is 32%. In FY04, the County did not meet the State goal. This may be due to the extensive and lengthy court proceedings which tend to delay the finalization of adoption and are out of the agency's control. Despite the shortfall in timeliness, the County has exceeded its State goals for the number of adoptions finalized for the fifth consecutive year: 37 adoptions were finalized in FY04.

PROGRAM PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF OUTCOMES: County Attorney, District Court, Circuit Court, Police, Montgomery County Public Schools, Housing Opportunities Commission, Maryland Department of Human Resources, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, State's Attorney, Collaboration Council.

MAJOR RELATED PLANS AND GUIDELINES: Maryland Safe and Stable Families Act, Child Welfare League of America report, Montgomery County Council's Children First Agenda, COMAR 07.02.12.